

Construction begins on Modernaire 2000



Story and Photos by Marnah Woken
Europe District Public Affairs



Members of the 104th ASG used golden shovels during the “Modernaire Club” groundbreaking ceremony on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. Pictured upper left, Europe District Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Albert Bleakley presents a shovel to Club Manager Gary Heintz. Pictured lower left, a small-scale model of what the facility will look like once completed in 1999.

Community members and dignitaries attended a September groundbreaking ceremony, marking the start of construction on Modernaire 2000 — a new community club for the Hanau area.

The new club will replace the existing Modernaire Club located in building 1354 on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. The facility is being constructed directly behind the existing club.

Once completed, the 24,000 square foot facility will offer a centralized kitchen, a conference room, a banquet and conference area with seating for 300 patrons, a ballroom, a game and slot machine room, a lounge, and a restaurant. The facility will hold approximately 1,000 patrons, allowing management to offer multiple functions at the same time.

“This is an historical day,” said Col. Daniel D. Imholte, 104th Area Support Group Commander. “When we began this project, we pulled out our history books and found that the last new club built in Hanau was the Skyline Lounge in 1953 at a cost of \$2.3 million.”

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony Imholte added, “This club celebrates our soldiers and their families, and sets the example of quality of life and quality services here in Hanau. My wish for the future is that this club will be the morale, welfare, and recreation centerpiece in the Hanau community.”

“I invite all of you to come back in the year 2000 to eat and drink with me in this brand new facility,” he added.

“This new club is long overdue and will really support the needs of the community,” said Gary Heintz, General Manager of the existing Modernaire Club. “Originally, the design for this club was done in 1990 for Wolfgang Kaserne, but due to downsizing it was put on the shelf.”

“I’m really excited about this new club,” added Heintz. “Because of the size and number of rooms, we’ll be able to do some things other Army clubs can’t do. For example, we’re going to offer a bigger menu, and more family dining options.”

“We plan to have our 1999 New Year’s Eve Party in the new club — that’s where the name

Modernaire 2000 came from,” added Heintz.

Also speaking at the ceremony and assisting with the groundbreaking ceremony, 414th BSB Commander Lt. Col. Michael W. DeYoung said, “This new club will improve the quality of life not only for the soldiers and their families in the 414th BSB — but all over Hanau.”

Europe District team members working on the project include Collocated Program Manager Sam Zakhem, Project Manager Dana Luedtke, Project Engineer Dieter Schwaenen, Contracting Officer Representative George VanCook, and Non-appropriated Fund Coordinator Lisa Bobotas. Europe District is working with the Fulda Staatsbauamt on the project, which is scheduled to be completed in November 1999.